polluted during the last three years as reported in the Economic Times of 6th June, 1992 ;

(b) whether it also a fact that a sum of Rs. 6 crores was spent during the year 1990-91 and Rs. 14.50 crores during the year 1991-92 on the Dal Lake development ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which the Dal Lake has shrunk and has become more polluted making the dvelopment a farce ; and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiry into the alleged development of the Dal Lake and expenditure incurred in that regard ; if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taj Mahal pollution

2092. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sulpher dioxide emitted by coal based industries in and around Agra have constantly polluted Taj Mahal with acid rains ;

(b) whether the marble shine of the Taj is robbed and turning yellowish ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad based National Remote Sensing Agency ank Birla Institute of Scientific Research have concluded that Taj is constantly attacked by nitric acid which is causing corrosion of marble surface ; and

(d) what are the preventive measures being taken by Government to save the Taj ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the ambient air quality survey being carried out in and around Agra. the levels of sulphur dioxide are well within the limit while the levels of suspended particulate matter are higher than the limits prescribed. Analysis of rain water conducted by the Archeological survey of India indicated that there was no presence of acid deposition.

(b) The surface of Taj Mahal has lost its lusture and has become slightly coloured.

(c) The study conducted by the Birla Institute of Scientific Research in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad indicated that Sulphur Dioxide is the major pollutant while oxides of nitrogen can also damage the Taj Mahal.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to protect Taj Mahal from pollution include the following :

(i) A trapezium surround the Taj Mahal has been demarcated. No new polluting industry is allowed to be set up in this area.

(ii) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(iii) A continuous sulphur dioxide monotoring station has been maintained at the Taj Mahal from January 1981, to obtain the trend of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen concentrations in the ambient air

(iv) The Mathura Refinery is continuously monitoring the ambient air quality at Mathura and its adjacent areas since the inception of the refinery.

(v) Two coal based thermal power plants in Agra had been closed down on 31st May, 1981.

(vi) Agra Railway Station Yard has been dieselised.

(vii) A net work of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up and operated in Agra by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

(viii) Emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

(ix) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(x) Industries have been asked to comply with the consent requirements of the state pollution control boards to keep the emissions within the stipulated limits.

(xi) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(xii) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(xiii) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.

भूदियाली वेटलैंड की हरियाली की तबाही

2093. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :
श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 13 जून, 1992 के "जनसत्ता" में छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें यह बताया गया है कि कलकत्ता पत्तन न्यास, भूदियाली, वेटलैंड की हरियाली को तबाह करने की साजिश रच रहा है और यह कि इस कलकत्ता पत्तन न्यास के अध्यक्ष कार्य रूप दे रहे हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि इस साजिश के कामयाब हो जाने पर अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के 300 से अधिक परिवार सड़कों पर आकर भीख मांगने के लिए मजबूर हो जायेंगे ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इसकी रोकथाम करने और इस संबंध में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के परिवारों की रक्षा करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) और (ख) जी हां, कलकत्ता पत्तन न्यास द्वारा हरियाली खत्म करने संबंधी कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की जा रही है । तथापि, कलकत्ता पत्तन न्यास द्वारा उक्त क्षेत्र को अतिक्रमण से बचाने के लिए कारवाई की जा रही है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Noise pollution in major cities

2094. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been abnormal rise in the noise pollution in major cities ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) According to a survey conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, noise levels in some areas of major cities were found to be above the prescribed standards.